

Acknowledgements

For access to specimens we thank staff of the Natural History Museum, Tring.

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Designation of a neotype for the dove known as '*Streptopelia risoria*'

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Received 30 August 2007

Columba risoria (Ringed Dove, Ringed Turtle Dove or Barbary Dove) was described by Linnaeus (1758) and transferred to the genus *Streptopelia* by Bonaparte (1855). These doves are kept in captivity in many parts of the world, being used frequently in biological research (cf. Baptista *et al.* 1997), or as pets by bird fanciers. Feral or escaped populations of *S. risoria* occur in various countries (Donegan & Huertas 2002).

Due to their morphological similarities, *S. risoria* is widely considered to be a domesticated descendant of African Collared Dove *S. roseogrisea* (Sundevall, 1857), which occurs in south-west Mauritania and Senegambia east to coastal Eritrea and Somalia, and Arabia (Gibbs *et al.* 2001). As *S. risoria* is senior to *S. roseogrisea*, application has been made to the International Committee of Zoological Nomenclature to conserve the name *S. roseogrisea*, in order to adopt the same approach to these taxa as that applied to names for domesticated mammals (Donegan 2007).

The nomenclature of *S. risoria* and *S. roseogrisea* is complicated by the apparent reference to individuals of other (current) *Streptopelia* species in the description of *Columba risoria*. Linnaeus (1758) included only a brief, ambiguous text and referred to descriptions by Aldrovandi (1599), Willughby (1678), Ray (1713) and Albin (1738). These works include plates and descriptions of birds similar to leucistic, domestic Ringed Doves (Aldrovandi and Willughby plates; Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'male'), birds currently referred to as wild *S. roseogrisea* (possibly, Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'female') and birds currently referred to as wild Eurasian Collared Dove *S. decaocto* (Fridvaldszky, 1838) (Albin's plate and description and, possibly, Aldrovandi, Willughby and Ray descriptions of the 'female'). The specimens illustrated by Aldrovandi (copied by Willughby) and Albin were probably live on depiction and are undoubtedly lost.

Although Baptista *et al.* (1997) noted that *S. decaocto* and *S. risoria* could be synonyms, almost all other literature on the topic ignores Linnaeus' (1758) references to *S. decaocto* or wild *S. roseogrisea* material in the description of *S. risoria*, and treats *S. risoria* as referring to

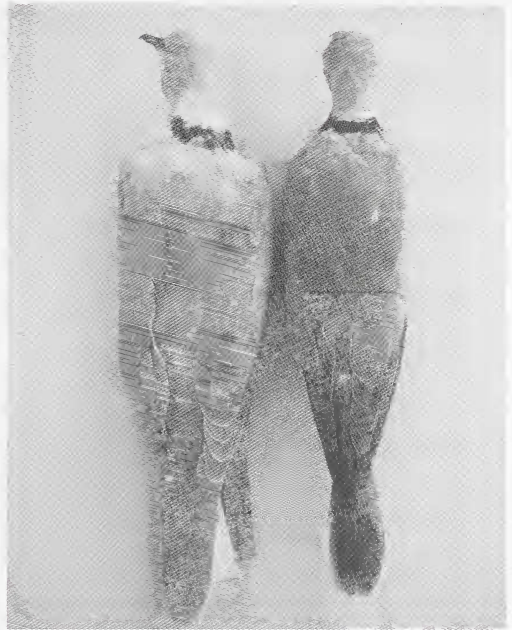


Figure 1. *Streptopelia risoria* neotype (left: BMNH 2008.3.1) and specimen of *S. roseogrisea* (BMNH 1915.12.24.368) collected at Khartoum, Sudan, 28 May 1912 (Thomas M. Donegan, © Natural History Museum, Tring)



Figure 2 (above). Aldrovandi (1599) plate referred to by Linnaeus (1758) in description of *S. risoria*.

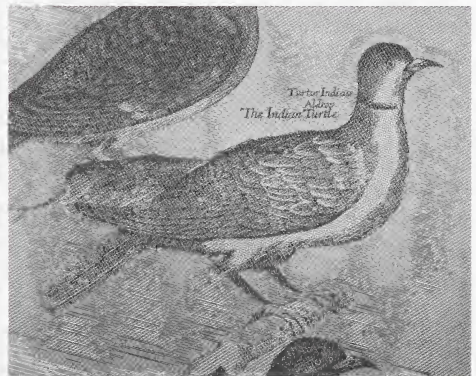


Figure 3 (right). Willughby (1678) plate referred to by Linnaeus (1758) in description of *S. risoria*.

domesticated populations of the Ringed Dove, to which the majority of illustrations and descriptions referenced in the original description refer.

In connection with the application to conserve the name *S. roseogrisea*, a neotype of *S. risoria* is assigned below in order to stabilise further the intra-generic nomenclature of *Streptopelia*. No name-bearing holotype for *S. risoria* is believed extant and a name-bearing type is necessary to define the nominal taxon *S. risoria* objectively. Such a designation has as its express purpose clarification of the taxonomy of *S. risoria*, *S. roseogrisea* and *S. decaocto*.

There are various *S. risoria* specimens in the Natural History Museum, Tring. Two showing characteristics depicted in Aldrovandi's plate are from Great Britain, one from an aviary (BMNH 81.5.1.2776) and the other possibly an escaped bird (BMNH 91.3.14.2). A further specimen is deemed as being from 'India', but lacks further details (BMNH 2008.3.1).

Specimens of '*S. risoria*' from the Thorpe collection were not considered due to the large number of hybrids in that collection.

Linnaeus, and all the other authors referred to in Linnaeus' description, considered *S. risoria* to occur in India. However, *S. risoria* has no natural distribution, meaning that precise locality data of a type specimen are of limited importance. The BMNH 'India' specimen therefore emerges as an apt candidate for the neotype of *S. risoria*.

Neotype: Natural History Museum, Tring (BMNH 2008.3.1), undated and unsexed, location 'India'. Based on labels attached to other *Streptopelia* specimens, the original museum label probably dates from the late 1800s. Plumage is as illustrated in Fig. 1, consistent with Aldrovandi's (Fig. 2) and Willughby's (Fig. 3) illustrations and descriptions.

Acknowledgements

Gina Douglas (Linnean Society of London), Natural History Museum and University College London library staff and Blanca Huertas (Natural History Museum) assisted with references. Mark Adams (NHM) kindly provided a new specimen number for the neotype. Thanks to ICZN staff (especially Svetlana Nikolaeva) for their suggestion to designate a neotype for *S. risoria*.

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